

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of determining the presence of an active angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE)- inhibiting drug in a fluid sample, said drug in its active state ~~capable of~~ modifying the activity level of an enzyme on a ~~selected~~ substrate, wherein said substrate is specific for ACE, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a first fluid sample obtained from a patient that may or may not contain any of said ACE-inhibiting drug, said first fluid sample being a serum or urine sample and including said enzyme;

adding a quantity of said ~~selected~~ substrate to said first fluid sample;

measuring the activity level of said enzyme on said ~~selected~~ substrate;

comparing said measured activity level with a standard activity level established by testing serum or urine samples from a plurality of individuals other than the patient that have a known quantity of active ACE-inhibiting drug present; and

determining the presence of said active ACE-inhibiting drug by said measured activity level.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, said standard activity level representing the activity level of said enzyme on a known quantity of said ~~selected~~ substrate.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of correlating said measured activity level with the concentration of said active ACE-inhibiting drug.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim [[5]] 1, said standard activity level representing the activity level of said enzyme on a known quantity of said ~~selected~~ substrate.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, said enzyme activity level decreasing when said active ACE-inhibiting drug is present.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, said enzyme activity level increasing as the level of active ACE-inhibiting drug in said sample decreases.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, said enzyme activity level decreasing as the level of said active ACE-inhibiting drug in said sample increases.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method of determining the presence of active angiotensin converting enzyme(ACE)-inhibiting drugs present in a fluid sample, said ACE-inhibiting drugs in their active state being capable of modifying the activity level of a target enzyme on a ~~selected~~ substrate, wherein said substrate is specific for ACE, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a first fluid sample obtained from a patient that may or may not contain any of said ACE-inhibiting drugs, said first fluid sample being a serum or urine sample;

adding a quantity of said ~~selected~~ substrate to said first fluid sample;

determining the activity level of said target enzyme on said ~~selected~~ substrate in said

fluid sample at a first time to provide a base line activity level; and

comparing said base line activity level with a standard activity level established by

testing serum or urine samples from a plurality of individuals other than the

patient that have a known quantity of ACE-inhibiting drugs present to

determine the concentration of said active ACE-inhibiting drugs in said first

fluid sample.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, further including comprising the step of determining the activity level of said target enzyme on said ~~selected~~ substrate in said fluid sample at a second time to provide a first activity level, said second time occurring after said first

time.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, further ~~including~~ comprising the step of comparing said base line activity level with said first activity level.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, further ~~including~~ comprising the steps of:

obtaining ~~providing~~ a second fluid sample;

adding a quantity of said ~~selected~~ substrate to said second fluid sample; and

determining the activity level of said target enzyme on said ~~selected~~ substrate in said second fluid sample to provide a second activity level.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, further ~~including~~ comprising the step of comparing said first activity level with said second activity level.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said first fluid sample ~~comprising~~ comprises urine.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said base line activity

level ~~of activity being representative of~~ represents said target enzyme's activity when no ACE-inhibiting drugs are present.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said ACE-inhibiting drugs ~~being~~ are selected from the group consisting of benazepril, captopril, enalapril, fosinopril, lisinopril, quinapril, ramipril, and trandolapril and combinations thereof.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said determining step comprises ~~including~~ the step of measuring the optical density of said fluid sample.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said activity level ~~levels~~ being is correlated with the optical density at 340 nm (O.D.₃₄₀) and is inverse of the delta O.D.₃₄₀ number.

25-51. (Canceled)